

*His Character, Court, and
Chroniclers 305*

favourite abode of Roger's successors
and was
the wonder of several travellers whose
descriptions
have come down to us. The chapel
survives
entire, and lemon groves surround the
ruins of the
rest.*

Parco was nearer to Palermo, and lay
among the
numerous orchards to the south-east of
the capital
in a valley watered by the Oreto. Of
the palace
which Roger built and enclosed with
wide hunting
grounds nothing remains. There were
other royal
residences at Patti and Messina, built
like Pavara
and Parco, for delight rather than
defence, thrown
open to the sun and surrounded by
gardens and
groves, places of splendour and
luxuriance little
like the castle-residences of the rulers
of France
and England.²

The state-dress of the King was, as
we know
from the contents found in the royal
tombs, the
tiara, mantle, and dalmatic of the
Greek Basileus.
Legate Apostolic no less than heir to
the Greek
lord of Italy, he is also shown on seals
wearing the
alb, dalmatic, mitre, and sandals of a
Legate. On
the gold seal attached to a diploma
given in
favour of the abbey of La Cava he is
represented
in full state, on his head a tiara from
both sides
of which hang pendants of pearls, a
tunic reaching

¹ Amari, *S. D. M.*, iii., p. 801, and Daniele, *op. cit.*, tables C.F.R.

^aThe//t»erartwwofBenjaminof Tudela, 1172 (ed. NathanAdler, pp. 78-9), relates that there was a lake or reservoir at Favara on which golden galleys carried the King (William II.) and his ladies; the walls of the palace within were painted with gold and silver and its pavements were all mosaic.